



# Hon. Robert T. Matsui

## Member of Congress

*Robert T. Matsui*

Serving California's 5th District

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**CONTACT: CODY HARRIS**  
**(202) 225-7163/(202) 225-0564**

### **MATSUI CALLS FOR EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS**

WASHINGTON, DC—Today Congressman Robert T. Matsui (D-CA) joined incoming Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and other Democratic leaders to call on President Bush and the Republican-led Congress to extend unemployment insurance for millions of jobless Americans who have been impacted by the current economic downturn.

“By extending unemployment benefits, we have the opportunity to help those who are hurting most while giving the economy a timely and much-needed boost,” said Congressman Matsui. “President Bush is right to support an extension of these benefits. But we need to pass an extension that will have an impact.”

Congressional Democrats are proposing a UI package that will extend benefits for the one million jobless workers who exhausted their benefits in 2002, to more than 800,000 workers whose benefits will be cut off on December 28<sup>th</sup>, and to nearly 2 ½ million workers who will need benefits over the first half of 2003.

“California workers have been especially hard-hit in this recession. Of the 800,000 unemployed workers whose benefits will expire three days after Christmas, more than 100,000 of them live in California, and an additional 100,000 have already exhausted their benefits but are still struggling to find work” said Matsui. “The Democratic proposal will help millions of families nationwide and stimulate the economy by boosting consumer demand.”

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